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OR

THE SLAVE OF DUTY.

COMIC OPERA.

BY

ARTHUR SULLIVAN AND W. S. GILBERT,

Authors of "Pinafore," etc., etc.

IN TWO ACTS.

COMPLETE LIBRETTO.

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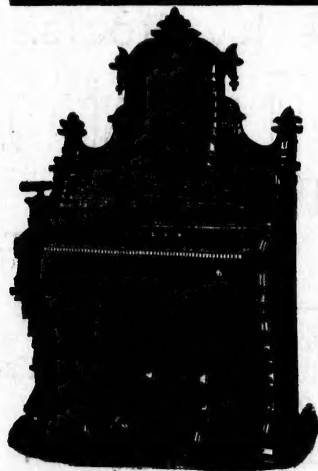
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The Pirates of Penzance;

OR,

THE SLAVE OF DUTY.

Written by W. S. GILBERT.

Composed by ARTHUR SULLIVAN.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

RICHARD, a Pirate Chief.....	_____
SAMUEL, his Lieutenant	_____
FREDERIC, a Pirate Apprentice.....	_____
MAJOR-GENERAL STANLEY, of the British Army... ..	_____
EDWARD, a Sergeant of Police	_____
MABEL, General Stanley's Youngest Daughter	_____
KATE, }	_____
EDITH, } General Stanley's Daughters	_____
ISABEL, }	_____
RUTH, a Piratical "Maid-of-all-work".....	_____
General Stanley's Daughters, Pirates, Policemen, etc.	

SCENE.

ACT 1ST.—*A Rocky Seashore on the Coast of Cornwall, England.*

ACT 2D.—*A Ruined Chapel on General Stanley's Estate.*

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THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE;

OR,

THE SLAVE OF DUTY.

SCENE.—A rocky sea-shore on the coast of Cornwall. Rocks L., sloping down to L. C. of stage. Under these rocks is a cavern, the entrance to which is seen at first entrance L. A natural arch of rock occupies the R. C. of the stage. In the distance is a calm sea, on which a schooner is lying at anchor.

As the curtain rises groups of Pirates are discovered, some drinking, some playing cards. SAMUEL, the Pirate Lieutenant, is going from one group to another, filling the cups from a flask. FREDERIC is seated in a despondent attitude at the back of the scene, C. RUTH kneels at his feet.

OPENING CHORUS.

Pour, oh pour the pirate sherry !
Fill, oh fill the pirate glass !
And, to make us more than merry,
Let the pirate bumper pass.

SOLO.—SAMUEL.

For to-day our pirate 'prentice
Rises from indentures freed.
Strong his arm and keen his scent is ;
He's a pirate now indeed !

ALL.

Here's good luck to Frederic's ventures !
Frederic's out of his indentures !

SOLO.—SAMUEL.

Two-and-twenty, now he's rising,
And alone he's fit to fly ;
Which we're bent on signalizing
With unusual revelry.

ALL.

Here's good luck to Frederic's ventures !
Frederic's out of his indentures !
So pour, oh pour the pirate sherry, etc.

(FREDERIC rises and comes forward with Pirate King, who enters from R. U. E.)

KING. Yes, Frederic, from to-day you rank as a full-blown member of our band.

ALL. Hurrah!

FREDERIC. My friends, I thank you all, from my heart, for your kindly wishes. Would that I could repay them as they deserve!

KING. What do you mean?

FRED. To-day I am out of my indentures, and to-day I leave you for ever.

ALL. Leave us?

FRED. For ever!

KING. But this is quite unaccountable. A keener hand at scuttling a Cunarder or cutting out a White Star never shipped a handspike.

FRED. Yes, I have done my best for you. And why? It was my duty under my indentures, and I am the slave of duty. As a child I was regularly apprenticed to your band. It was through an error. No matter, the mistake was ours, not yours, and I was in honor bound by it.

SAMUEL. An error? What error?

FRED. I may not tell you. It would reflect upon my well-loved Ruth.

(RUTH comes down C.)

RUTH. Nay, dear master, my mind has long been gnawed by the cankering tooth of mystery. Better have it out at once.

SONG.—RUTH.

When Frederic was a little lad he proved so brave and daring
His father thought he'd 'prentice him to some career seafaring.
I was, alas! his nursery-maid, and so it fell to *my* lot
To take and bind this promising boy apprentice to a pilot.
A life not bad for a hardy lad, though certainly not a high
lot;
Though I'm a nurse, you might do worse than make your
boy a pilot.

I was a stupid nursery-maid, on breakers always steering,
And I did not catch the word aright, through being hard of
hearing.

Mistaking my instructions, which within my brain did gyrate,
I took and bound this promising boy apprentice to a pirate.

A sad mistake it was to make, and doom him to a vile lot:
I bound him to a pirate—you—instead of to a pilot!

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I soon found out, beyond all doubt, the scope of this disaster ;
But I hadn't the face to return to my place and break it to my
master.

A nursery-maid is never afraid of what you people *call* work,
So I made up my mind to go as a kind of piratical maid-of-all-
work ;

And that is how you find me now a member of your shy lot,
Which you wouldn't have found had he been bound appren-
tice to a pilot.

RUTH. (*Kneeling at his feet.*) Oh pardon, Frederic ! pardon !

FRED. Rise, sweet one ; I have long pardoned you.

(RUTH rises.)

RUTH. The two words were so much alike !

FRED. They still are, though years have rolled over their
heads ! (*RUTH goes up with SAMUEL.*) But this afternoon my
obligation ceases. Individually, I love you all with affection
unspeakable ; but collectively, I look upon you with a disgust
that amounts to absolute detestation. Oh pity me, my beloved
friends, for such is my sense of duty that once out of my inden-
tures I shall feel myself bound to devote myself, heart and soul,
to your extermination.

ALL. Poor lad ! poor lad ! (*All weep.*)

KING. Well, Frederic, if you conscientiously feel that it is
your duty to destroy us, we cannot blame you for acting on that
conviction. Always act in accordance with the dictates of your
conscience, my boy, and chance the consequences.

SAMUEL. Besides, we can offer you but little temptation to
remain with us. We don't seem to make piracy pay. I'm
sure I don't know why, but we don't.

FRED. I know why, but, alas ! I mustn't tell you ; it
wouldn't be right.

KING. Why not, my boy ? It's only half-past eleven, and
you are one of us until the clock strikes twelve.

SAM. True, and until then you are bound to protect our
interests.

ALL. Hear ! hear !

FRED. Well, then, it is my duty as a pirate to tell you that
you are too tender-hearted. For instance, you make a point of
never attacking a weaker party than yourselves, and when you
attack a stronger party you invariably get thrashed.

KING. There is some truth in that.

FRED. Then, again, you make a point of never molesting an
orphan.

SAM. Of course : we are orphans ourselves, and know what
it is.

FRED. Yes, but it has got about, and what is the consequence? Every one we capture says he's an orphan. The last three ships we took proved to be manned entirely by orphans, and so we had to let 'em go. One would think that Great Britain's mercantile navy was recruited solely from her orphan asylums, which we know is not the case. *(Crosses R.)*

SAM. But, hang it all! you wouldn't have us absolutely merciless?

FRED. There's my difficulty. Until twelve o'clock I would; after twelve o'clock I wouldn't. Was ever a man placed in so delicate a situation?

(RUTH comes down C.)

RUTH. And Ruth, your own Ruth, whom you love so well, and who has won her middle-aged way into your boyish heart—what is to become of her?

KING. Oh, he will take you with him.

FRED. Well, Ruth, I feel some little difficulty about you. It is true that I admire you very much, but I have been constantly at sea since I was eight years old, and yours is the only woman's face I have seen during that time. I think it is a sweet face.

RUTH. It is—oh, it is!

FRED. I say I *think* it is—that is my impression. But as I have never had an opportunity of comparing you with other women, it is just possible I may be mistaken.

KING. True.

FRED. What a terrible thing it would be if I were to marry this innocent person, and then find out that she is, on the whole, plain!

KING. Oh, Ruth is very well—very well indeed.

SAM. Yes, there are the remains of a fine woman about Ruth.

FRED. Do you really think so? Then I will not be so selfish as to take her from you. In justice to her and in consideration for you I will leave her behind. *(Hands RUTH to KING.)*

KING. No, Frederic, this must not be. We are rough men, who lead a rough life, but we are not so utterly heartless as to deprive thee of thy love. I think I am right in saying that there is not one here who would deprive thee of this inestimable treasure for all the world holds dear.

ALL. *(Loudly.)* Not one!

KING. No, I thought there wasn't. Keep thy love, Frederic—keep thy love! *(Hands her back to FREDERIC.)*

FRED. You're very good, I'm sure.

KING. Well, it's the top of the tide, and we must be off. Farewell, Frederic. When your process of extermination begins,

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let our deaths be as swift and painless as you can conveniently make them.

FRED. I will. By the love I have for you I swear it. Would that you could render this extermination unnecessary by accompanying me back to civilization!

KING. No, Frederick, it cannot be. I don't think much of our profession, but, contrasted with respectability, it is comparatively honest. No, Frederick; I shall live and die a pirate king.

SONG.—PIRATE KING.

Oh better far to live and die
Under the brave black flag I fly,
Than play a sanctimonious part
With a pirate head and a pirate heart.
Away to the cheating world go you,
Where pirates all are well-to-do;
But I'll be true to the song I sing,
And live and die a Pirate King!
For I am a Pirate King!

ALL. You are! Hurrah for our Pirate King!

KING. And it is, it is a glorious thing
To be a Pirate King!

ALL. Hurrah, hurrah for our Pirate King!

KING. When I sally forth to seek my prey
I help myself in a royal way.
I sink a few more ships, it's true,
Than a well-bred monarch ought to do;
But many a king on a first-class throne,
If he wants to call his crown his own,
Must manage somehow to get through
More dirty work than ever I do,
Though I am a Pirate King!

ALL. You are! Hurrah for our Pirate King!

KING. And it is, it is a glorious thing
To be a Pirate King!

ALL. It is! Hurrah for our Pirate King!

(After Song, the KING, SAMUEL, and all the Pirates, except FREDERIC and RUTH, go off R. and R. U. E. FREDERIC comes down C., followed by RUTH.)

RUTH. Oh take me with you! I cannot live if I am left behind.

FRED. Ruth, I will be quite candid with you. You are very dear to me, as you know, but I must be circumspect. You see, you are considerably older than I: a lad of twenty-one usually looks for a wife of seventeen.

RUTH. A wife of seventeen! You will find me a wife of a thousand!

FRED. No, but I shall find you a wife of forty-seven, and that is quite enough now. Ruth, tell me candidly and without reserve: compared with other women, how are *you*?

RUTH. I will answer you truthfully, master: I have a slight cold, but otherwise I am quite well.

FRED. I am sorry for your cold, but I was referring rather to your personal appearance. Compared with other women, are you beautiful?

RUTH. (*Bashfully.*) I have been told so, dear master.

FRED. Ah, but lately?

RUTH. Oh no; years and years ago.

FRED. But what do you think yourself?

RUTH. It is a delicate question to answer, but I think I am a fine woman.

FRED. That is your candid opinion?

RUTH. Yes: I should be deceiving you if I told you otherwise.

FRED. Thank you, Ruth. I believe you, for I am sure you would not practise on my inexperience. I wish to do the right thing, and if—I say, *if*—you are really a fine woman, your age shall be no obstacle to our union. (*Shakes hands with her.*)

(*Chorus of girls heard in the extreme distance, "Climbing over rocky mountains," etc. See entrance of girls.*)

FRED. Hark! surely I hear voices. Who has ventured to approach our all but inaccessible lair? Can it be custom-house? No, it does not sound like custom-house.

RUTH. (*Aside.*) Confusion! It is the voices of young girls! If he should see them I am lost.

FRED. (*Climbing rocky arch R. C. and looking off L.*) By all that's marvellous, a bevy of beautiful maidens!

RUTH. (*Aside.*) Lost! lost! lost!

FRED. How lovely, how surpassingly lovely, is the plainest of them! What grace! what delicacy! what refinement! and Ruth—Ruth told me she was beautiful!

RECIT.

FRED. Oh false one, you have deceived me!

RUTH. I have deceived you?

FRED. Yes, deceived me! (*Denouncing her.*)

DUET—FREDERIC and RUTH.

FRED. You told me you were fair as gold.
 RUTH. (*Wildly.*) And, master, am I not so?
 FRED. And now see you're plain and old.
 RUTH. I am sure I am not a jot so.
 FRED. Upon my ignorance you play.
 RUTH. I'm not the one to plot so.
 FRED. Your face is lined, your hair is gray.
 RUTH. It's gradually got so.
 FRED. Faithless woman, to deceive me !—I who trusted so !
 RUTH. Master, master, do not leave me ; hear me ere you go !
 My love, without reflecting,
 O do not be rejecting.
 Take a maiden tender, her affection raw and green,
 At very highest rating
 Has been accumulating
 Summers seventeen, summers seventeen.
 Don't, beloved master,
 Crush me with disaster !
 What is such a dower to the dower I have here ?
 My love, unabating,
 Has been accumulating
 Forty-seven year, forty-seven year !

ENSEMBLE.

RUTH.	FRED.
Don't, beloved master,	Yes, your former master
Crush me with disaster, etc.	Saves you from disaster.
What is such a dower to the	Your love would be uncom-
dower I have here ? etc.	fortably fervid, it is clear,
	If, as you are stating,
	It's been accumulating
	Forty-seven year, forty-seven
	year !

(*At the end he renounces her, and she goes off R. in despair.*)

RECIT.—FRED.

What shall I do ? Before these gentle maidens I dare not show in this deserted costume. No, better far remain in close concealment until I can appear in decent clothing. (*Exit R.*)

(*Hides in cave as they enter from R. and L., climbing over the rocks at L. of the stage and through arched rock R.*)

FRED.

Climbing over rocky mountain,
 Skipping rivulet and fountain,

Passing where the willows quiver
 By the ever-rolling river,
 Swollen with the summer rain :
 Threading long and leafy mazes,
 Dotted with unnumbered daisies,
 Scaling rough and rugged passes,
 Climb the hardy little lasses,
 Till the bright seashore they gain.

EDITH.

Let us gayly tread the measure,
 Make the most of fleeting leisure,
 Hail it as a true ally,
 Though it perish by and by.

ALL.

Hail it as a true ally,
 Though it perish by and by.

EDITH.

Every moment brings a treasure
 Of its own especial pleasure :
 Though the moments quickly die,
 Greet them gayly as they fly.

KATE.

Far away from toil and care,
 Revelling in fresh sea-air,
 Here we live and reign alone,
 In a world that's all our own.

Here, in this our rocky den,
 Far away from mortal men,
 We'll be queens and make decrees :
 They may honor them who please.

ALL.

Let us gayly tread the measure, etc.

KATE. What a picturesque spot ! I wonder where we are ?

EDITH. And I wonder where papa is ? We have left him
 ever so far behind.

ISABEL. Oh, he will be here presently. Remember, poor
 papa is not as young as we are, and we came over a rather
 difficult country.

KATE. But how thoroughly delightful it is to be so entirely
 alone ! Why, in all probability we are the first human beings
 who ever set foot on this enchanting spot.

ISABEL. Except the mermaids; it's the very place for mermaids—

KATE. Who are only human beings down to the waist—

EDITH. And who can't be said strictly, to set *foot* anywhere. Tails they may, but feet they *cannot*.

KATE. But what shall we do until papa and the servants arrive with the luncheon? (*All listen and come down.*)

EDITH. We are quite alone, and the sea is as smooth as glass. Suppose we take off our shoes and stockings and paddle?

ALL. Yes, yes—the very thing!

(*They prepare to carry out the suggestion. They have all taken off one shoe, when FREDERIC comes forward from cave.*)

FRED. (*Recitative.*) Stop, ladies, pray!

ALL. (*Hopping on one foot.*) A man!

FRED. I had intended

Not to intrude myself upon your notice

In this effective but alarming costume,

But under these peculiar circumstances it is my bounden duty to inform you

That your proceedings will not be unwitnessed.

EDITH. But who are you, sir? Speak! (*All hopping.*)

FRED. I am a pirate!

ALL. (*Recoiling, hopping.*) A pirate? Horror!

FRED. Ladies, do not shudder.

This evening I renounce my vile profession,

And to that aid, O pure and peerless maidens,

O blushing buds of ever-blooming beauty,

I, sore of heart, implore your kind assistance.

EDITH. How pitiful his tale!

KATE. How rare his beauty!

ALL. How pitiful his tale! how rare his beauty! (*Put on their shoes.*)

SONG —FREDERIC.

Oh is there not one maiden breast

Which does not feel the moral beauty

Of making worldly interest

Subordinate to sense of duty?

Who would not give up willingly

All matrimonial ambition

To rescue such an one as I

From his unfortunate position? (*Crosses R.*)

ALL. Alas! there's not one maiden breast

Which seems to feel the moral beauty

Of making worldly interest

Subordinate to sense of duty.

FRED.

Oh, is there not one maiden here
 Whose homely face and bad complexion
 Have caused all hope to disappear
 Of ever winning man's affection?
 To such an one, if such there be,
 I swear, by heaven's arch above you,
 If you will cast your eyes on me,
 However plain you be, I'll love you.

ALL

Alas! there's not one maiden here
 Whose homely face and bad complexion
 Have caused all hope to disappear
 Of ever winning man's affection.

FRED. (*In despair.*) Not one?

ALL No, no, not one.

FRED. Not one?

ALL No, no.

(*MABEL enters through arch R. C.*)

MABEL Yes, one!

ALL 'Tis Mabel!

MABEL Yes, 'tis Mabel!

RECIT.—MABEL

O sisters, deaf to pity's name?
 For shame!
 It's true that he has gone astray
 But, pray,
 Is that a reason good and true
 Why you
 Should all be deaf to pity's name?
 For shame!

ALL (*Aside.*) The question is, had he not been
 A thing of beauty,
 Would she be swayed by quite as keen
 A sense of duty?

SOLO.—MABEL

Poor wandering one,
 Though thou hast surely strayed,
 Take heart of grace;
 Thy steps retrace.
 Be not afraid,
 Poor wandering one.

If such poor love as mine
 Can help thee find
 True peace of mind,
 Why, take it—it is thine,
 Poor wandering one!
 Take heart; fair days will shine,
 Take any heart—take mine!

ALL. Take heart! though dangers lowers;
 Take any heart—but ours!

(MABEL and FRED exit L.)

(MABEL and FRED go to mouth of cave L., and converse. KATE
 beckons her sisters, who form a semicircle around her.)

EDITH.

What ought we to do,
 Gentle sisters, pray?
 Propriety, we know,
 Says we ought to stay,
 While sympathy exclaims,
 "Free them from your tether;
 Play at other games;
 Leave them here together."

KATE.

Her case may any day
 Be yours, my dear, or mine;
 Let her make her hay
 While the sun doth shine.
 Let us compromise
 (Our hearts are not of leather),
 Let us shut our eyes
 And talk about the weather.

(EDITH, KATE, and girls retire up, and sit two and two, facing
 each other, in a line across the stage.)

(CHATTERING CHORUS, during which FRED and MABEL fondle.)

How beautifully blue the sky!
 The glass is rising very high.
 Continue fine I hope it may,
 And yet it rained but yesterday;
 To-morrow it may rain again
 (I hear the country wants some rain);
 Yet people say, I know not why,
 That we shall have a warm July.

SOLO.—MABEL.

(During this the girls continue their chatter pianissimo, but listening eagerly all the time.)

Did ever maiden wake
From dream of homely duty
To find her daylight break
With such exceeding beauty?
Did ever maiden close
Her eyes on wakening sadness,
To dream of, Goodness knows,
How much exceeding gladness?

FRED.

Oh yes, oh yes, this is exceeding gladness.

(FREDERIC and MABEL turn and see that the girls are listening; detected, they continue their chatter, forte.)

GIRLS.

How beautifully blue the sky! etc., etc.

SOLO—FRED.

(During this the girls continue their chatter, pianissimo, as before, but listening intently all the time.)

Did ever pirate roll
His soul in guilty dreaming,
And wake to find that soul
With peace and virtue beaming?
Did ever pirate loathed
Forsake his hideous mission,
To find himself betrothed
To a lady of position?

MABEL.

Ah yes, ah yes, I am a lady of position.

(MABEL and FRED turn as before. Girls resume their chatter, forte.)

ENSEMBLE.

MABEL.
Did ever maiden
wake, etc.

FRED.
Did ever pirate
loathed, etc.

GIRLS.
How beautifully blue
the sky, etc.

REC.—FRED.

Stay; we must not lose our senses
Men who stick at no offences
Will anon be here.

Piracy their dreadful trade is ;
Pray you get you hence, young ladies,
While the coast is clear.

GIRLS.

No, we must not lose our senses,
If they stick at no offences.
Piracy their dreadful trade is—
Nice associates for young ladies !
Let us disappear.

(During this Chorus the Pirates enter stealthily from R. U. E.,
and form in a semicircle behind the girls. As the girls move
to go off each Pirate seizes a girl.)

ALL Too late !

PIRATE Ha ! ha !

ALL Too late !

PIRATES.

Ha ! ha ! ha ! ha ! ha ! ha ! ha ! ha ! ha !

ENSEMBLE

PIRATES.

LADIES.

Now here's a first-rate oppor- tunity	We have missed our oppor- tunity
To get married with impunity,	Of escaping with impunity,
And indulge in the felicity	So farewell to the felicity
Of unbounded domesticity.	Of our maiden domesticity.
You shall quickly be parson- ified,	We shall quickly be parson- ified,
Conjugally matrimonified,	Conjugally matrimonified,
By a doctor of divinity	By a doctor of divinity
Who resides in this vicinity.	Who resides in this vicinity.

MABEL (coming forward), RECIT.

Hold, monsters ! ere your pirate caravanserai
Proceeds against our will to wed us all,
Just bear in mind that we are wards in chancery,
And father is a Major-General !

SAMUEL.

We'd better pause, or danger may befall ;
Their father is a Major-General.

ALL THE LADIES.

Yes, yes, he is a Major-General.
(The Major-General has entered unnoticed on rock L U. E.)

GENERAL Yes, I am a Major-General !
 ALL You are ! Hurrah for the Major-General !
 GENERAL And it is a glorious thing to be a Major-General !
 ALL It is ! Hurrah for the Major-General !

SONG—MAJOR-GENERAL

I am the very pattern of a modern major-gineral ;
 I've information vegetable, animal, and mineral ;
 I know the kings of England, and I quote the fights historical,
 From Marathon to Waterloo, in order categorical ;
 I'm very well acquainted, too, with matters mathematical ;
 I understand equations, both the simple and quadratical ;
 About binomial theorem I'm teeming with a lot of news—
(Bothered for next rhyme.) Lot o' news—lot o' news—
(Struck with an idea.) With many cheerful facts about the
 square of the hypotenuse ;
(Joyfully.) With many cheerful facts about the square of the
 hypotenuse !

ALL

With many cheerful facts about the square of the hypotenuse !

GENERAL

I'm very good at integral and differential calculus ;
 I know the scientific names of beings animalculous ;
 In short, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral
 I am the very model of a modern major-gineral !

ALL

In short in matters vegetables, animal, and mineral
 He is the very model of a modern major-gineral !

GENERAL

I know our mythic history, King Arthur's and Sir Caradoc's ;
 I answer hard acrostics ; I've a pretty taste for paradox—
 I quote in elegiacs all the crimes of Heliogabalus ;
 In cronies I can floor peculiarities parabolous ;
 I can tell undoubted Raphaels from Gerard Dows and Zof-
 fanies ;
 I know the croaking chorus from the *Frogs* of Aristophanes ;
 Then I can hum a fugue of which I've heard the music's din
 afore—
(Bothered for next rhyme.) Din afore ? din afore ? din afore ?—
(Struck with an idea.) And whistle all the airs from that infer-
 nal nonsense, *Pinafore*,
(Joyously.) And whistle all the airs from that infernal nonsense,
Pinafore.

ALL.

And whistle all the airs from that infernal nonsense, *Pinafore*.

GENERAL.

Then I can write a washing-bill in Babylonian cuneiform,
And tell you every detail of Caractacus's uniform.
In short, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral
I am the very pattern of a modern major-general!

ALL.

In short, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral
He is the very pattern of a modern major-general!

GENERAL.

In fact, when I know what is meant by "namelon" and "ravelin"—

When I can tell at sight a chassépot rifle from a javelin—
When such affairs as sorties and surprises I'm more wary at,
And when I know precisely what is meant by "commissariat"—
When I have learnt what progress has been made in modern
gunnery—

When I know more of tactics than a novice in a nunnery,—
In short, when I've a smattering of elemental strategy—
(*Bothered for the rhyme.*) Strategy! strategy!—

(Struck with an idea.)

(*Joyously.*) You'll say a better major-general has never sat agee.

ALL.

We'll say a better major-general has never sat agee.

GENERAL.

For my military knowledge, though I'm plucky and adventurous,
Has only been brought down to the beginning of the century;
But still, in learning vegetable, animal and mineral
I am the very model of a modern major-general.

ALL.

But still in learning vegetable, animal, and mineral
He is the very model of a modern major-general.

GENERAL. And now that I have introduced myself, I should
like to have some idea of what's going on.

KATE. Oh, papa! we—

SAMUEL. Permit me; I'll explain it in two words: we propose
to marry your daughters.

GENERAL. Dear me!

GIRLS. Against our wills, papa—against our wills!

GENERAL. Oh, but you mustn't do that. May I ask—this is a picturesque uniform, but I am not familiar with it—what are you?

KING. We are all single gentlemen.

GENERAL. Yes, I gathered that. Anything else?

KING. No, nothing else.

EDITH. Papa, don't believe them. They are pirates—the famous Pirates of Penzance!

GENERAL. The Pirates of Penzance? I have often heard of them.

MABEL. Yes, all except this gentleman (*indicating FREDERIC*), who was a pirate once, but who is out of his indentures to-day.

GENERAL. But wait a bit. I object to pirates as sons-in-law.

KING. We object to major-generals as fathers-in-law. But we waive that point; we do not press it, we look over it.

GENERAL. (*Aside.*) Hah! an idea! (*Aloud.*) And do you mean to say that you would deliberately rob me of these the sole remaining props of my old age, and leave me to go through the remainder of life unfriended, unprotected, and alone?

KING. Well, yes; that's the idea.

GENERAL. Tell me, have you ever known what it is to be an orphan?

ALL THE PIRATES. (*Disgusted.*) Oh, dash it all!

KING. Here we are again!

GENERAL. I ask you, Have you ever known what it is to be an orphan?

KING. (*Sighing.*) Often.

GENERAL. Yes, orphan. Have you ever known what it is to be one?

KING. I say, often.

ALL. (*Disgusted.*) Often! often! often! (*Turning away.*)

GENERAL. I don't think we quite understand one another. I ask you, Have you ever known what it is to be an orphan? and you say "Orphan." As I understand you, you are merely repeating the word "orphan" to show that you understand me.

KING. I didn't repeat the word "often."

GENERAL. Pardon me; you did indeed.

KING. I only repeated it once.

GENERAL. True, but you repeated it.

KING. But not often.

GENERAL. Stop! I think I see where we are getting confused. When you said "orphan" did you mean "orphan," a person who has lost his parents, or "often," frequently?

KING. Oh, I beg your pardon! I see you mean frequently.

GENERAL. Ah, you said "often" frequently.

KING. No, only once.

GENERAL. Exactly you said "often, frequently," only once.

FINALE

RECIT.—GENERAL

Oh men of dark and dismal fate,

Forego your cruel employ ;

Have pity on my lonely state—

I am an orphan boy !

KING. An orphan boy !

GENERAL. An orphan boy !

PIRATES. How sad ! an orphan boy !

SOLO.—GENERAL

These children whom you see

Are all that I can call my own.

PIRATES. Poor fellow !

GENERAL. Take them away from me,

And I shall be indeed alone.

PIRATES. Poor fellow !

GENERAL. If pity you can feel,

Leave me my sole remaining joy.

See at your feet they kneel ;

Your hearts you cannot steel

Against the sad, sad tale of the lonely orphan boy.

PIRATES. (*Sobbing.*) Poor fellow !

See at our feet they kneel ;

Our hearts we cannot steel

Against the sad, sad tale of the lonely orphan boy.

KING. The orphan boy !

SAM. The orphan boy !

ALL. The lonely orphan boy ! Poor fellow.

ENSEMBLE

GENERAL

GIRLS. (*Aside.*)

PIRATES. (*Aside.*)

I'm telling a terrible story, He's telling a terrible story, If he's telling a terrible story,

But it doesn't diminish my glory ; Which will tend to diminish his glory, He shall die by a death that is gory—

For they would have taken my daughters Though they would have taken his daughters One of the cruellest slaughters

Over the billowy waters, That ever was known in these waters ;

ters,

GENERAL.	GIRLS. (<i>Aside.</i>)	PIRATES. (<i>Aside.</i>)
If I hadn't inelegant diction	It's easy in elegant diction	And we'll finish his moral affliction
Indulged in an innocent fiction,	To call it an innocent fiction,	By a very complete malediction,
Which is not in the same category	But it comes in the same category	As a compliment valedictory,
As a regular, terrible story.	As a regular, terrible story.	If he's telling a terrible story.

KING.

Although our dark career
 Sometimes involves the crime of stealing,
 We rather think that we're
 Not altogether void of feeling.
 Although we live by strife,
 We're always sorry to begin it,
 And what we ask is life
 Without a touch of poetry in it.

ALL (*Kneeling*)

Hail, Poetry, thou heaven born maid !
 Thou gildest e'en the pirate's trade.
 Hail, flowing fount of sentiment !
 All hail, divine emollient !

KING.

You may go, for you're at liberty ; our pirate rules protect you,
 And honorary members of our band we do elect you.

ENSEMBLE.

Pray observe the magnanimity
 We } display to lace and dimity,
 They }
 Never was such opportunity
 To get married with impunity ;
 But { we } give up the felicity
 they }
 Of unbounded domesticity,
 Though a doctor of divinity
 Is located in this vicinity.

KING.

For we all are orphan boys !

ALL.

We are ! Hurrah for the orphan boys !

GENERAL.

And it sometimes is a useful thing to be an orphan boy.

ALL.

It is ! Hurrah for the orphan boy !

(*Girls and GENERAL go up rocks L. Group while Pirates indulge in a wild dance of delight on stage R. and R. C. The GENERAL produces a British flag, and the PIRATE KING (on arched rock R. C.) produces a black flag with skull and crossbones. Picture.*)

END OF ACT I

ACT II.

SCENE.—*A ruined chapel by moonlight. Aisles C. R. and L., divided by pillars and arches; ruined Gothic windows at back. GENERAL STANLEY discovered seated R. C. pensively, surrounded by his daughters.*

CHORUS.

Oh dry the glistening tear
That dews that martial cheek;
Thy loving children hear,
In them thy comfort seek.
With sympathetic care
Their arms around thee creep,
For oh, they cannot bear
To see their father weep.

(*Enter MABEL and FRED*)

SOLO.—MABEL.

Dear father, why leave your bed
At this untimely hour,
When happy daylight is dead
And darksome dangers lower?
See, heaven has lit her lamp,
The midnight hour is past,
And the chilly night-air is damp,
And the dew is falling fast
Dear father, why leave your bed
When happy daylight is dead?

(*FRED enters R. U. E. and down C.*)

MABEL. Oh Frederic, cannot you reconcile it with your conscience to say something that will relieve my father's sorrow?

FRED. I will try, dear Mabel, but why does he sit, night after night, in this draughty old ruin?

GENERAL. Why do I sit here? To escape from the pirates' clutches I described myself as an orphan, and I am no orphan. I came here to humble myself before the tombs of my ancestors, and to implore their pardon for the disgrace I have brought upon them.

FRED. But you forget sir. You only bought the property a year ago, and the stucco on your baronial castle is scarcely dry.

GENERAL. Frederic in this chapel are ancestors; you cannot deny that. I don't know whose ancestors they *were*, but I know whose ancestors they *are*, and I shudder to think that their descendant by purchase (if I may so describe myself) should have brought disgrace upon what I have no doubt was an unstained escutcheon.

FRED. Be comforted. Had you not acted as you did, these reckless men would assuredly have called in the nearest clergyman, and have married your large family on the spot.

GENERAL. I thank you for your proffered solace, but it is unavailing. At what time does your expedition march against these scoundrels?

FRED. At eleven, and before midnight I hoped to have atoned for my involuntary association with these pestilent scourges by sweeping them from the face of the earth.—And then, my Mabel, you will be mine!

GENERAL. Are your devoted followers at hand?

FRED. They are; they only wait my orders.

RECIT.—GENERAL. Then, Frederic, let your escort lion-hearted be summoned to receive a general's blessing ere they depart upon their dread adventure.

FRED. Dear sir, they come!

(*Enter Police, marching in single file from L., 2d E.*)

ALL. Good luck! they bear them bravely!

(*The Police form in line, facing audience.*)

SONG.—SERGEANT.

When the foeman bears his steel—

ALL. (*Using their clubs as trumpets.*) Tarantara! tarantara!

SERGEANT. We uncomfortable feel;

ALL. Tarantara!

SERGEANT. And we find the wisest thing—

ALL. Tarantara! tarantara!

SERGEANT. Is to slap our chests and sing—

ALL. Tarantara!

SERGEANT. For when threatened with *emeutes*—

ALL. Tarantara! tarantara!

SERGEANT. And your heart is in your boots—

ALL. Tarantara!

SERGEANT. There is nothing brings it round—
 ALL. Tarantara! tarantara!
 SERGEANT. Like the trumpet's martial sound—
 ALL. Tarantara!
 SERGEANT. Tarantara-ra-ra-ra-ra! etc.
 ALL. Tarantara ra-ra-ra-ra-ra!

MABEL (*from L., addressing SERGEANT.*)

Go, ye heroes, go to glory!
 Though you die in combat gory,
 Ye shall live in song and story—
 Go to immortality!
 Go to death and go to slaughter;
 Die, and every Cornish daughter
 With her tears your graves shall water—

Go, ye heroes, go and die!
 Go, ye heroes, go and die!
 ALL. Go, ye heroes, go and die!
 SERGEANT. Though to us it's evident—
 ALL. Tarantara! tarantara!
 SERGEANT. These attentions are well meant—
 ALL. Tarantara!
 SERGEANT. Such expressions don't appear—
 ALL. Tarantara! tarantara!
 SERGEANT. Calculated men to cheer—
 ALL. Tarantara!
 SERGEANT. Who are going to meet their fate—
 ALL. Tarantara! tarantara!
 SERGEANT. In a highly nervous state—
 ALL. Tarantara!
 SERGEANT. Still to us it's evident—
 ALL. Tarantara! tarantara!
 SERGEANT. These attentions are well meant—
 ALL. Tarantara!
 ALL. Yes, to them it's evident, etc. etc.

EDITH (*from R., addressing SERGEANT.*)

Go, and do your best endeavor,
 And before all links we sever
 We will say farewell for ever—
 Go to glory and the grave!
 For your foes are fierce and ruthless,
 False, unmerciful and truthless;
 Young and tender, old and toothless,
 All in vain their mercy crave.
 ALL. Yes, your foes are fierce and ruthless, etc.

CHORUS OF POLICE.

We observe too great a stress—
 Tarantara! tarantara!
 On the risks that on us press—
 Tarantara!
 And of reference a lack—
 Tarantara! tarantara!
 To our chance of coming back—
 Tarantara!
 SERGEANT. Still, perhaps, it would be wise—
 POLICE. Tarantara! tarantara!
 SERGEANT. Not to carp or criticise—
 ALL. Tarantara!
 SERGEANT. For it's very evident—
 ALL. Tarantara! tarantara!
 SERGEANT. These attentions are well meant—
 ALL. Tarantara!
 ALL. Yes, to us it's evident
 These attentions are well meant—
 Tarantara-ra-ra-ra! etc., etc.
 Go, ye heroes, go to glory! etc., etc.
 GENERAL. Away! away!
 POLICE. (*Without moving.*) Yes, yes, we go
 GENERAL. These pirates slay.
 POLICE. Yes, yes, we go.
 GENERAL. Then do not stay.
 POLICE. We go, we go.
 GENERAL. Then why all this delay?
 POLICE. All right! We go, we go;
 Yes, forward on the foe!
 Ho! ho! ho! ho!
 We go, we go, we go!
 Tarantara-ra-ra-ra!
 GENERAL. Then forward on the foe!
 ALL. Yes! forward!
 POLICE. Yes! forward!
 GENERAL. Yes! but you *don't* go!
 POLICE. We go, we go, we go!
 ALL. At last they really go!

ENSEMBLE.

CHORUS OF ALL BUT POLICE	CHORUS OF POLICE
Go, and do your best endeavor,	Such expressions don't appear—
And before all links we sever	Tarantara! tarantara!
We will say farewell forever;	Calculated men to cheer—
Go to glory and the grave!	Tarantara!

CHORUS OF ALL BUT POLICE.

For your foes are fierce and
ruthless,
False, unmerciful, and truth-
less ;
Young and tender, old and
toothless,
All in vain their mercy crave,
etc.

CHORUS OF POLICE.

Who are going to their fate—
Tarantara ! tarantara !
In a highly nervous state—
Tarantara !
We observe too great a stress—
Tarantara ! tarantara !
On the risks that on us press—
Tarantara !
And of reference a lack—
Tarantara ! tarantara !
To our chance of coming back—
Tarantara !

(MABEL tears herself from FRED, and exits R., followed by her sisters, consoling her. The GENERAL and others follow the Police off L. FREDERIO remains alone.)

RECIT.—FRED.

Now for the pirates' lair ! Oh joy unbounded !
Oh sweet relief ! oh rapture unexampled !
At last I may atone, in some slight measure,
For the repeated acts of thefts and pillage
Of which, at a sense of duty's stern dictation,
I, circumstances' victim, have been guilty.

(The PIRATE KING and RUTH appear at the window C., armed.)

KING. Young Frederic !

(Covering him with pistol.)

FRED. Who calls ?

KING. Your late commander.

(Coming down.)

RUTH. And I, your little Ruth !

(Covering him with pistol.)

FRED. Oh, mad intruders !

How dare ye face me ! Know ye not, rash ones,
That I have doomed you to extermination ?

(KING and RUTH hold a pistol to each ear.)

KING. Have mercy on us ! Hear us ere you slaughter !

FRED. I do not think I ought to listen to you.

Yes, mercy should alloy one stern resentment,
And so I will be merciful, Say on.

TRIO.—RUTH, KING, and FRED.

When first you left our pirate fold
We tried to cheer our spirits faint,
According to our customs old,
With quibs and quibbles quaint ;
But all in vain the quibs we heard ;
We lay and sobbed upon the rocks,

CE
appear—
rantara !
F—
rantara !

Until to somebody occurred
A curious paradox.

FRED. A paradox?

KING and RUTH. (*Laughing.*) A paradox—

A most ingenious paradox.

We've quips and quibbles heard in flocks;

But none to beat this paradox.

Ha! ha! ha! ha! Ho! ho! ho! ho!

KING. We knew your taste for curious quips,

For cranks and contradictions queer,

And with the laughter on our lips

We wished you there to hear.

We said, "if we could tell it him,

How Frederic would the joke enjoy!"

And so we've risked both life and limb

To tell it to our boy.

FRED. (*Interested.*) That paradox.

KING and RUTH. (*Laughing.*) That paradox,

That most ingenious paradox.

We've quips and quibbles heard in flocks,

But none to beat that paradox!

Ha! ha! ha! ha! ho! ho! ho! ho!

CHANT.—KING.

For some ridiculous reason—to which, however, I've no desire
to be disloyal—

Some person in authority—I don't know who; very likely the
astronomer-royal—

Has decided that although for such a beastly month as February
twenty-eight days as a general rule is plenty,

One year in every four his days shall be reckoned as nine-and-
twenty.

Though some coincidence—I shouldn't be surprised if it were
owing to the agency of some ill-natured fairy—

You are the victim of this clumsy arrangement, having been
born in leap-year on the twenty-ninth of February;

And so, by a simple Arithmetical process, you'll easily discover,
That though you've lived twenty-one years, yet, if we go by

birthdays, you are only five and a little bit over!

RUTH and KING. Ha! ha! ha! ha! Ho! ho! ho! ho!

That paradox, etc.

FRED. Dear me! Let's see: (*Counting on fingers.*)

Yes, yes,—with yours my figures do agree.

Ha! ha! ha! ha! Ho! ho! ho! ho!

(FREDERIC more amused than any.)

How quaint the ways of Paradox!
 At common sense she gaily mocks.
 Though, counting in the usual way,
 Years twenty-one I've been alive,
 Yet, reckoning by my natal-day,
 I am a little boy of five!

ALL. He is a little boy of five, ha! ha!
 At common sense she gaily mocks,
 So quaint a way has Paradox!
 Ha! ha! ha! ha!
 KING. Ho! ho! ho! ho!
 RUTH. Ha! ha! ha! ha!
 FRED. Ha! ha! ha! ha!
 ALL. Ho! ho! ho! ho!

(All throw themselves back on seats exhausted with laughing.)

FRED. Upon my word, this is most curious,
 Most absurdly whimsical. Five and a quarter!
 No one would think it to look at me.

RUTH. You are glad now, I'll be bound that you spared us.
 You would never have forgiven yourself when you discovered
 that you had killed two of your comrades.

FRED. My comrades?

KING. I'm afraid you don't appreciate the delicacy of your
 position. You were apprenticed to us—

FRED. Until I reached my twenty-first year.

KING. No, until you reached your twenty-first birthday
(producing document), and, going by birth-days you are as yet
 only five and a quarter.

FRED. You don't mean to say you are going to hold me to
 that?

KING. No, we merely remind you of the fact, and leave the
 rest to your sense of duty.

FRED. *(Wildly.)* Don't put it on that footing. As I was
 merciful to you just now, be merciful to me. I implore you not
 to insist on the letter of your bond just as the cup of happiness
 is at my lips.

RUTH. We insist on nothing. We content ourselves with
 pointing out to you your duty.

FRED. Well, you have appealed to my sense of duty, and my
 duty is only too clear. I abhor your infamous calling, I shudder
 at the thought that I have ever been mixed up with it, but duty
 is before all. At any cost, I will do my duty.

KING. Bravely spoken! Come, you are one of us once more.

FRED. Lead on I follow! *(Suddenly.)* Oh, horror!

KING and RUTH. What is the matter?

FRED. Ought I to tell you? No! no! I cannot do it; and yet, as one of your band—

KING. Speak out, I charge you, by that sense of conscientiousness to which we have never yet appealed in vain.

FRED. General Stanley, the father of my Mabel—

KING and RUTH. Yes! yes!

FRED. He escaped from you on the plea that he was an orphan?

KING. He did.

FRED. It breaks my heart to betray the honored father of the girl I adore, but as your apprentice I have no alternative. It is my duty to tell you that General Stanley is no orphan.

KING and RUTH. What?

FRED. More than that, he never was one!

KING. Am I to understand that to save his contemptible life he dared to practice on our credulous simplicity? (FRED nods as he weeps.) Our revenge shall be swift and terrible. We will go and collect our band and attack Tremorden Castle this very night.

FRED. But—

KING. Not a word! he is doomed!

TRIO.

KING and RUTH.

FRED.

Away! away! my heart's on fire;	Away! away! ere I expire. I find my duty hard to do to-day.
I burn, this base deception to repay;	My heart is filled with anguish dire;
This very day my vengeance dire	It strikes me to the core, Away!
Shall glut itself in gore.	away!
Away! away!	

KING.	With falsehood foul He tricked us of our brides; Let vengeance howl— The pirate so decides! Our nature stern He softened with his lies, And in return This night the traitor dies.
ALL.	Yes, yes, to-night the traitor dies!
RUTH.	To-night he dies.
KING.	Yes, or early to-morrow.
FRED.	His girls likewise!
RUTH.	They will welter in sorrow!
KING.	The one soft spot—

FRED. In their natures they cherish
 RUTH. And all who plot—
 KING. To abuse it shall perish.
 ALL. Yes, all who plot
 To abuse it shall perish !
 Away ! away ! etc.

(*Exeunt KING and RUTH. FRED throws himself on a stone L.C. in blank despair. Enter MABEL.*)

RECIT.—MABEL.

All is prepared ; your gallant crew await you.
 My Frederic in tears ! It cannot be
 That lion heart quails at the coming conflict ?
 FRED. No, Mabel, no. A terrible disclosure
 Has just been made.
 Mabel, my dearly-loved one,
 I bound myself to serve the pirate captain
 Until I reached my one-and-twentieth birthday.
 MABEL. But you *are* twenty-one ?
 FRED. I've just discovered
 That I was born in leap-year, and that birthday
 Will not be reached by me till 1940.
 MABEL. Oh horrible ! catastrophe appalling !
 FRED. And so farewell !
 MABEL. No, no ! Oh, Frederic, hear me !

DUET.—MABEL and FRED.

MABEL. Stay, Frederic, stay !
 They have no legal claim.
 No shadow of a shame
 Will fall upon thy name.
 Stay, Frederic, stay !
 FRED. Nay, Mabel, nay !
 To-night I quit these walls.
 The thought my soul appalls,
 But when stern duty calls
 I must obey !
 MABEL. Stay, Frederic, stay !
 FRED. Nay, Mabel, nay !
 MABEL. They have no claim.
 FRED. But duty's name !
 The thought my soul appalls,
 But when stern duty calls
 I must obey !

BALLAD.—MABEL.

Oh leave me not to live
 Alone and desolate!
 No fate seemed fair as mine—
 No happiness so great—
 And Nature day by day
 Has sung in accents clear
 This joyous roundelay,
 "He loves thee—he is here!
 Fa la! fa la! fa la!
 He loves thee—he is here!"

FRED.

Oh I must leave thee here,
 In endless night to dream,
 Where joy is dark and drear,
 And sorrow all supreme—
 Where Nature day by day
 Will sing in altered tone
 This weary roundelay,
 "He loves thee—he is gone!
 Fa la! fa la! fa la!
 He loves thee—he is gone!"

In 1940 I of age shall be:

I'll then return and claim you, I declare it!

MABEL.

It seems so long!

FRED.

Swear that till then you will be true to me.

MABEL.

(*Aside.*) Yes, I'll be strong.

(*Aloud.*) By all the Stanleys dead and gone I
 swear it!

ENSEMBLE.

Oh here is love, and here is truth,
 And here is food for joyous laughter:

He { will be faithful to his { his } sooth.
 She { her } }

Till we are wed, and even after.

What joy to know that though { he } must
 { I }

Embrace piratical adventures,

He { will be faithful to { his } trust
 She { her } }

Till { he is } out of { his } indentures!
 { I am } { my }

FRED.

Farewell! Adieu!

MABEL.

The same to you!

BOTH.

Farewell! Adieu!

(*FRED rushes to window and leaps out.*)

RECIT.—MABEL.

Distraction! Frederic! loved one! oh return!
 With love I burn!
 (*Recollecting.*) Stay! I'm a Stanley! Even to the grave
 I will be brave.
 His conscience bids him give up love and all
 At duty's call;
 Mine teaches me that though I love him so,
 He is my foe.

RECIT.

(*Feeling pulse.*) Yes, I am brave! O family descent!
 How great thy charm! thy sway how excellent!
 Come one and all, undaunted men in blue,
 A crisis now affairs are coming to.

Enter Police from R. I. E., marching in single file.)

SERGEANT. Though in body and in mind, tarantara! tarantara!

We are timidly inclined, tarantara!
 And anything but blind, tarantara! tarantara!
 To the danger that's behind, tarantara!
 Yet, when the danger's near, tarantara! tarantara!
 We manage to appear, tarantara!
 As insensible to fear, tarantara! tarantara!
 As anybody here, tarantara!
 Tarantara! tarantara-ra-ra-ra-ra!

MABEL. Sergeant approach. Young Frederick was to have led you to death and glory.

ALL. That is not a pleasant way of putting it.

MABEL. No matter. He will not so lead you, for he has allied himself once more to his old associates.

ALL. He has acted shamefully!

MABEL. You speak falsely; you know nothing about it. He has acted nobly!

ALL. He has acted nobly!

MABEL. Dearly as I loved him before, his heroic sacrifice to his sense of duty has endeared him to me tenfold; but if it was *his* duty to constitute himself my foe, it is likewise *my* duty to regard him in that light. He has done his duty; I will do mine. Go ye and do yours. (*Exit MABEL, R. I. E.*)

ALL. Very well.

SERGEANT. This is perplexing.

ALL. We cannot understand it at all.

SERGEANT. Still, if he is actuated by a sense of duty—

ALL. That makes a difference, of course. At the same time, we repeat we cannot understand it.

SERGEANT. No matter. Our course is clear; we must do our best to capture these pirates alone. It is most distressing to us to be the agents whereby our erring fellow-creatures are deprived of that liberty which is so dear to all, but we should have thought of that before we joined the force.

ALL. We should.

SERGEANT. It is too late now.

ALL. It is.

SONG.—SERGEANT.

When a felon's not engaged in his employment—

ALL. His employment,

SERGEANT. Or maturing his felonious little plans—

ALL. Little plans,

SERGEANT. His capacity for innocent enjoyment—

ALL. -Cent enjoyment

SERGEANT. Is just as great as any honest man's—

ALL. Honest man's.

SERGEANT. Our feelings we with difficulty smother—

ALL. -Culty smother,

SERGEANT. When constabulary duty's to be done—

ALL. To be done.

SERGEANT. Ah, take one consideration with another—

ALL. With another,

SERGEANT. A policeman's lot is not a happy one—

ALL. Happy one.

When constabulary duty's to be done—

To be done—

The policeman's lot is not a happy one—

Happy one!

SERGEANT. When the enterprising burglar's not a-burgling—

ALL. Not a burgling,

SERGEANT. When the cutthroat isn't occupied in crime—

ALL. -Pied in crime,

SERGEANT. He loves to hear the little brook a-gurgling—

ALL. Brook a gurgling,

SERGEANT. And listen to the merry village chime—

ALL. Village chime.

SERGEANT. When the costor's finished jumping on his mother—

ALL. On his mother,

SERGEANT. He loves to lie a-basking in the sun—

ALL. In the sun.

SERGEANT. Ah, take one consideration with another—

ALL. With another,

SERGEANT. The policeman's lot is not a happy one—
 Happy one!
 When constabulary duty's to be done—
 To be done,
 The policeman's lot is not a happy one—
 Happy one!

CHORUS OF PIRATES OUTSIDE, IN THE DISTANCE.

A rollicking band of pirates we,
 Who tired of tossing on the sea,
 Are trying their hand at a burglar
 With weapons grim and gory!

SKEG. Hush! hush! I hear them on the manor poaching;
 With stealthy step the pirates are approaching.

CHORUS OF PIRATES RESUMED NEARER.

We are not coming for plate or gold—
 A story General Stanley told—
 We seek a penalty fifty-fold
 For General Stanley's story.

POLICE. They seek a penalty.

PIRATES. (*Without.*) Fifty-fold!

We seek a penalty fifty-fold!

ALL. We { seek a penalty fifty-fold
 They { for General Stanley's story.

POLICE. They come in force,
 The bold, burglarious elves;
 Our obvious course
 Is to conceal ourselves.

Police conceal themselves in aisle L. As they do so the Pirates, with RUTH and FREDERIC, are seen appearing at ruined window C. They enter cautiously, and come down stage on tiptoe. The KING is laden with burglarious tools and pistols, etc., etc.)

CHORUS.—PIRATES.

(*Very loud.*) With cat-like tread
 Upon our prey we steal—
 In silence dread
 Our cautious way we feel.

POLICE. (*Pianissimo.*) Tarantara! tarantara!

PIRATES. No sound at all:
 We never speak a word;
 A fly's footfall
 Would be distinctly heard.

POLICE. Tarantara! tarantara!

PIRATES. Ha! ha!
 Ho! ho!
 So stealthily the pirate creeps
 While all the household soundly sleeps.
 Gurr! gurr!
 Gurr! gurr! (*Imitating snoring.*)
 Ha! ha! Ho! ho!

POLICE. (*Pianissimo.*) Tarantara! tarantara!
 (*Forte.*) Tarantara!

RECIT.—FRED.

Hush! not a word! I see a light inside.

(*Looks through key-hole L.*)

The major-general comes, so quickly hide.

MAJOR-GENERAL. (*Without.*) Yes, yes, the major-general
 comes.

PIRATES. He comes!

MAJOR-GENERAL. (*Entering in dressing-gown, carrying a
 light.*) Yes, yes, I come!

POLICE. He comes!

MAJOR-GENERAL. Yes, yes, I come.

ALL. The major-general comes.

SOLO.—GENERAL.

Tormented with the anguish dread
 Of falsehood unatoned,
 I lay upon my sleepless bed,
 And tossed and turned and groaned.
 The man who finds his conscience ache
 No peace at all enjoys;
 And as I lay in bed awake
 I thought I heard a noise.

PIRATES. He thought he heard a noise!
 Ha! ha! ha! ha! ha! ha!

POLICE. He thought he heard a noise!
 Tarantara-ra-ra!

GENERAL. No, all is still
 In dale on hill
 My mind is set at ease.
 So still the scene
 It might have been
 The sighing of the breeze.

BALLAD.—GENERAL.

Sighing softly to the river
 Comes the loving breeze,

Setting Nature all a-quiver,
Rustling through the trees
Through the trees.

ALL
GENERAL. And the brook in rippling measure
Laughs for very love,
While the poplars in their pleasure
Wave their arms above.

POLICE and PIRATES. Yes, the trees for very love.
Wave their leafy arms above.
River, river, little river!
May thy loving prosper ever!
Heaven speed the poplar tree!
May thy wooing happy be!

GENERAL. Yes, the breeze is but a rover!
When he wings away,
Brook and poplar mourn a lover,
Sighing "Well-a-day!"

ALL. Well-a-day!

GENERAL. Ah, the doing and undoing
That the rogue could tell!
When the breeze is out a-wooing,
Who can woo so well?

POLICE and PIRATES. Shocking tales the rogue could tell;
Nobody can woo so well!
Pretty brook, thy dream is over,
For thy love is but a rover.
Sad the lot of poplar trees
Courtied by a fickle breeze!

*(Enter the GENERAL's daughters, led by MABEL, all in white
peignoirs and nightcaps, and carrying candles.)*

GIRLS. Now, what is this? and what is that? and why does
father leave his nest

At such a time of night as this, so incompletely dressed?
Dear father is, and always was, the most methodical of men;
It's his invariable rule to go to bed at half-past ten.
What strange occurrence can it be that calls dear father from his
nest

At such a time of night as this, so very, so very incompletely
dressed?

KING. *(Springing up.)* Forward, my men, and seize that
general there!
His life is over.

GENERAL. The pirates! Oh, despair!

MABEL and GIRLS. The pirates! oh, the pirates!
Oh, despair!

PIRATES. Yes, yes, we are the pirates, so despair!

(They seize the GENERAL.)

KING With base deceit
You worked upon our feelings ;
Revenge is sweet,
And flavors all our dealings.
With courage rare,
And resolution manly,
For death prepare,
Unhappy General Stanley !

FRED. *(Coming forward.)* Alas ! alas ! unhappy General Stanley !

GENERAL. Frederic here ! Oh joy ! oh rapture !—
Summon your men and effect their capture.

MABEL. Frederick, save us !

FRED. Beautiful Mabel,
I would if I could, but I am not able.

PIRATES. He's telling the truth ; he is not able.

POLICE. *(Pianissimo.)* Tarantara ! tarantara !

(They bind the GENERAL to broken pillar C.)

MABEL. *(Wildly.)* Is he to die, unshriven and unannealed ?

GIRLS. Oh spare him !

MABEL. Will no one in his cause a weapon wield ?

GIRLS. Oh spare him !

POLICE. *(Springing up.)* Yes, we are here, though hitherto concealed.

GIRLS. Oh, rapture !

POLICE. So to our powers, pirates, quickly yield !

GIRLS. Oh, rapture !

(A struggle ensues between Pirates and Police, RUTH tackling SERGEANT. Eventually the Police are overcome and fall prostrate, the pirates standing over them with drawn swords.)

GENERAL. To gain a brief advantage you've contrived,
But your proud triumph will not be long-lived !

KING. Don't say you are orphans, for we know that game.

SERGEANT. On your allegiance we've a nobler claim :
We charge you yield in Queen Victoria's name !

KING. *(Baffled.)* You do ?

POLICE. We do !
We charge you yield in Queen Victoria's name !

(Pirates kneel ; Police stand over them triumphantly.)

KING. We yield at once with humbled mien,
Because, with all our faults, we love our queen.

POLICE. Yes, yes, with all their faults they love their queen.

(Police, holding Pirates by the collar, take out handkerchiefs and weep.)

GENERAL. Away with them and place them at the bar !

RUTH. One moment ; let me tell you who we are.
We are no members of the common throng ;
We are all noblemen who have gone wrong.

GENERAL, POLICE, and GIRLS. What ! All noblemen !

KING and PIRATES. Yes, all noblemen !

GENERAL, POLICE, and GIRLS. What ! All ?

KING. Well, nearly all.

ALL. They are nearly all noblemen who have gone wrong.
Then give three cheers both loud and strong,
For the twenty noblemen who have gone wrong !
Then give three cheers both loud strong,
For the noblemen who have gone wrong !

GENERAL. No Englishman unmoved that statement hears,
Because, with all our faults, we love our House of
Peers !

(All kneel.)

ALL. Hail, ever hail, O House of Peers !
To wisdom that mankind reveres
We listen with respectful ears,
For oh we love our House of Peers !

(All rise. Each Pirate takes a Girl.)

RECIT.—GENERAL.

I pray you pardon me, ex-pirate king ;
Peers will be peers, and youth will have its fling,
Resume your ranks and legislative duties,
And take my daughters, all of whom are beauties.

FINALE.

RUTH. At length we are provided, with unusual facility,
To change piratic crime for dignified respectability.

KING. Combined, I needn't say, with the unparalleled
felicity

Of what we have been longing for—unbounded
domesticity.

MABEL. To-morrow morning early we will quickly [be
parsonified—

Hymeneally coupled, conjugally matrimonified.

SERGEANT. And this shall be accomplished by that doctor of
divinity

Who happily resides in the immediate vicinity.

CHORUS. Who happily resides in the immediate vicinity.

GENERAL My military knowledge, though I'm plucky and
adventurous,
Has only been brought down to the beginning of
the century ;
But still in getting off my daughters—eight or
nine or ten in all—
I've shown myself the model of a modern major-
general.

ALL His military knowledge, etc.

(Dance.)

CURTAIN.

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